CDXC Newsletter

Dec 1991 **Chiltern DX Club** **Issue 76**

Editorial (G0HSD)

OK now we can breathe again. What a couple of months! Every year September through to November seem to be my busiest, what with conventions, contests etc. I was glad to see so many of you at Daventry. Many thanks to Bob G3PJT (who has written an article for the next issue) and his team for laying on a superb convention. I think we all had a great time...those of us who stayed awake after the late evening the night before! And I don't just mean myself (I nodded off in Wayne's ZA lecture...a late night with WGV, LJF, FP5DX and a bar that never shut!), but one of our members, who shall remain nameless, went up to his room after lunch to collect some papers, started reading and fell fast asleep! not waking until way after the convention had finished!! Poor soul. Everybody else was thrilled by Wayne's lecture and efforts and others fighting to get into G3FXBs lecture on contesting. Rumours that the Great FXB was spilling the beans on his success were rife, but Al played his cards close to his chest and gave us an interesting lecture nevertheless.

Congratulations to Steve GW4BLE, who was awarded the ROTAB Trophy this year and to G3TXF, G3SXW and G3WVG who along with Wayne Mills and F2CW received the CDXC Awards of Merit for their excellent H44 operation.

Congratulations must also go to G4ADD who has become the new RSGB Awards Manager. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Bill all the best for the future.

Thanks to all those who have contributed towards the Newsletter this time. PLEASE don't stop sending things! Next time I hope to be able to produce a complete list of members. Which reminds me, if your newsletter label is marked with an X your subs are OVERDUE (those who paid by SO see Treasurer's message) and this will be that last Newsletter you will receive unless you renew immediately.

Well that's it from me, except to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous, DX packed New Year!

Best 73s Andrew G0HSD

Please note that the deadline for the next newsletter is Saturday 18th January 1992.

Christmas Dinner

I have been advised by some members that our usual venue, The Olde Swan at Thames Ditton, has gone down hill considerably in the last year. So I have taken the option of finding an alternative venue:

THE HEATHROW PARK HOTEL
BATH ROAD
LONGFORD
WEST DRAYTON
MIDDLESEX

From M4, leave at junction 5 and head east on the A4. After approx 2m turn right at major roundabout onto A3044. At next roundabout turn left into Longford. Heathrow Park hotel is about three quarters of a mile on the right.

Approaching from east along A4, take first available left turn after passing Heathrow (just before Peggy Bedford pub); hotel is about 200 yds on left. When leaving the hotel, all traffic must turn right... go to first junction and enter the A4... follow signposts to M4, M25 as necessary.

The price will be £19.75 per person and a deposit of £5 per head is also required. Please send your deposits to me as soon as possible.

Many thanks to G4DYO for the leaflets enclosed with the newsletters.

Andrew, G0HSD , Social Secretary

YA QSL CARDS - HAPPY?

By Andrew Shaw G0HSD

Yes the cards are out...well sort of. I received my card along with one for G3IGW in my envelope. Half thinking this was a mistake whilst sorting the cards into the envelopes in Moscow, I passed it on.

The thought of this stayed in my mind and whenever I spoke to another G on the phone I asked if they too had received other peoples QSL cards in with theirs. Yes...those who had received them at all.

By now I had spoken to enough people to see that two and sometimes three people's cards were sent to one person. This wouldn't have been so bad if the person in Moscow had put in the other couple of dollars to cover the expense at the G end!

I will say no more. But please bear this in mind when QSLing for the XZ operation, should it be credited for DXCC.

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REPORT ON FIRST DXPEDITION OPERATION FROM OC-153

(Steve Telenius-Lowe, P29DX)

The majority of Papua New Guinea's islands are conveniently divided into groups such as the Trobriand Islands, Louiseiade Archipelago etc... Those that aren't are lumped together for IOTA purposes as the PNG Coastal Islands Group, and were given the reference OC-153. It turned out that Reg, VE7IG, had a QSL from a VK9 in pre-independence days who had operated from Samarai Island, close to (but not part of) the D'Entrecasteaux group, which was at that time a local government headquarters. Only one other QSL was known to exist from any of the coastal islands, and if there had been any operations since from any of the islands which would count for this group, no-one seemed to know about it.

I decided that an operation from OC-153 would definitely be worthwhile and made plans with a friend of mine who has a private pilot's licence to fly to Doini Island in Milne Bay province, only six mile from Samarai, but a long way from Port Morseby. This particular island was chosen because Glyn, the pilot, had visited there before and knew there was a suitable landing strip and accommodation available. We set a date for the 30th August - 2nd September, he booked the plane - a four-seater Cherokee - and I informed IOTA enthusiasts to look out for me during that period.

I then found out that there was no electricity on Doini, and a radio-telephone conversation with the coconut plantation manager there confirmed that there wasn't even a generator on the island. Never mind, I'd just have to use battery power. Two days before departure, though, there were a number of storms in the Milne Bay area and very low cloud between Morseby and Doini forced us to cancel the trip. Apart from the danger of flying in a light aircraft in such conditions, the landing strip was also waterlogged. Naturally I was very disappointed and started informing the IOTA enthusiasts not to bother looking for me that weekend after all.

However, on the Friday evening, when we should already been on Doini, an excited Glyn phoned to say that the landing strip on Yule Island, which had not been in operation for several years, had just been re-opened. My PNG guide book says that Yule Island is a popular weekend resort, complete with guest house and a thriving lobster business. However, all this apparently closed down when the airstrip was closed, which is why I hadn't considered Yule Island a suitable location for the proposed DXpedition in the first place. Somebody else had re-booked the plane

for the Saturday, but it was available on the Sunday. We decided to go for it.

Yule Island is only 55 miles northwest of Port Moresby, a mere 30 minutes flying time by Cherokee. The P29DX Butternut HF6V vertical was taken down early Sunday morning (having been in use at the home station until 2am!), and an FT-747GX and a car battery thrown into the plane. We were probably only the second or third plane to land on the island in the last few years, and we were met by about 30-40 excited children. There were plenty of eager helpers to carry the rig, antenna, co-ax and car battery to the beach about 100 yards away. The Butternut was planted on the beach about ten feet from the Coral Sea and there was just enough co-ax to reach the shade of the coconut palms, where the locals (by now very curious) thoughtfully provided a canvas for me to sit on and set up the station on.

Operating conditions were not ideal. I had forgotten to bring headphones (which I wear even in the home shack at all times), there was not table or chair, there was a 15-20 knot wind attempting to blow the log sheets away, by now the entire population of the village was watching what I was up to, and most disconcerting of all the beach was populated by several very large and hairy black boars. However, the local people ignored them, so I concluded they must be harmless enough.

When I turned on the rig at 0400z, the 20 metre band was virtually dead, apart from a strong signal from VK9NS. I told him where I was and he said that if I called into the 14222 net at 0545 GMT there would undoubtedly be many IOTA collectors who would call me. I put out a few more calls with no takers and so decided to save some battery volts until the band opened to Europe. At 0515 there was some activity on 14260 and after I attracted the attention of I1HYW it suddenly dawned on the whole of Italy where I was. Although some of them could copy me, my signal was clearly pretty feeble (the band was not properly open yet) and it quickly degenerated into the constant calling and nobody listening syndrome. I worked about 20 stations in this manner and then went on the 14222 net where, sure enough, just over 100 IOTA enthusiasts were waiting. Word obviously gets round pretty quickly!

The 222 DX net was turned into an IOTA net for the next 45 minutes and 105 stations were worked in that time, before I had to pack up to return to Moresby. (We had to be back before dark - 0800 GMT). Fortunately, conditions improved tremendously and many of the southern European signals were 59+ and I was getting 56 or 57 reports from most of them.

I realise that just over 100 QSOs has only just scratched the surface for the demand for this IOTA counter, and indeed there are

many IOTA enthusiasts known to me whom I did not work. Now that Yule Island has been 're-opened' it should be possible to return, on several occasions if need be. We are making enquiries about getting accommodation at the Catholic mission station on the island, which has electricity available. Next time we hope to go for a full weekend and take a linear amplifier along, in which case my signal should be a lot better, and it should be possible to make several hundred, if not 1000 plus, QSOs.

SILENT KEYS

The Committee was very sorry to hear of the passing of the following members:

Frank Parkhurst, BRS 10663
John Coffey, G3PSH

A tribute to Frank by G3NOF appears below.
A trophy was presented in memory of John to the RSGB by his widow, Heather. This will be presented every year to the winner of the restricted section of SSB Field Day.

Frank Parkhurst BRS10663 - A Tribute
(Don McLean, G3NOF)

Frank died on 18th September 1991 aged 79 years. He had been a SWL since the early 1920s and remained one all his life. Before WW2 he constructed all his own receivers and other equipment. After the war he modified service equipment for amateur use. During the war he served in the RAF ground staff. In the 1930s he was a member of the British Short Wave League as BSWL226 writing in their magazine the DX column as "West Countryman." I met him in 1935 when he enrolled me in the BSWL, and became my SWL adviser remaining friends ever since then. He was one of the founder members in 1946 of the Yeovil Amateur Radio Club and was treasurer for over thirty years. He was still a member at the time of his death. DX was his particular interest especially on CW and he had heard all DXCC countries . In recent years he had taken a great interest in WAB and was the first person to have heard 4000 areas. His last claim was for 4020 areas out of the total of 4052 areas. IOTA was another interest and he was the only person to have heard over 300 islands. He has been described as quiet, helpful and friendly. His funeral on 24th September was attended by seventeen amateurs representing the Yeovil ARC, RSGB, ISWL, RAFARS, WAB, and CDXC which I represented. He leaves two sons and will be missed by all.

RAMBLINGS OF A DX EDITOR

Brendan McCartney, G4DYO

When I wrote the last "Ramblings" there were but a few days to go until the last of the "big ones" hit the airwaves. ZA1A opened up on Tuesday 17th September - the first acceptable operation from Albania for nearly 20 years. For me this one - my last Current DXCC Country - was one of the hardest - it took two days of calling on 20m without success before being answered at my very first attempt on 15m! Several G's got through very early on but I didn't really get going until the pile-up had really built up and missed that essential early opportunity. Worst thing for me was to hear my good friend and arch DXing rival G3RCA go through. Tom started DXing the day I got my ticket and we have kept in close touch throughout the seventeen exciting years it has taken us both to reach top Honor Roll slot.At least now we've worked them all the phone bills might decrease!

The ZA pile-ups were unbelievable and, contrary to all the theories, the Italians had tremendous propagation all day on 20m, which meant Gs had a huge wall of QRM to try and smash through. But that is history and ZA stations can be heard daily calling CQ - even on 80m - with very few takers. A number of large international teams have really put it about in a big way and at least half a dozen nationals are active with their ZA1TA* calls. Martti Laine and his colleagues did their usual excellent superb job to get things started but, unfortunately, their operation was marred somewhat by rumours that the Hungarians - having spent much time and effort to obtain proper authority to operate - had been refused permission at the eleventh hour just so the IARU team could take the honours. Whether this is true we shall probably never know, but certainly one or two of the IARU ops made some very pointed, and quite uncalled for, remarks about the Hungarians. The first QSL cards to arrive were from the Hungarian sponsored ZA1DX operation, hotly followed by those for ZA1A. The situation is still unresolved and DXCC acceptance for all except the ZA1A operation is awaited.

Most of October saw frantic activity in another very rare country - Bangladesh. Jim Smith and others have been trying for some time to secure proper authorisation to operate; some apparently legit operations have been refused by the ARRL whilst other distinctly "dodgy" efforts have got through! One enterprising soul has been openly operating with an S21 callsign for several months despite assurance from various quarters that he is operating illegally and liable to be

locked up. However, Jim Smith appears to have followed all the correct procedures and claimed to have been rewarded with the first proper licence to be issued to a foreigner - S21ZA. His XYL Kirsti was said to have been issued with S21ZB. This must be seen as recognition by the Bangladesh Government for Jim's special efforts as the two callsigns were issued to Jim & Kirsti even ahead of several British and American would-be amateurs already resident in Bangladesh. Unfortunately, despite assurances before he left Norfolk Island he was not able to operate as soon as he arrived in Bangladesh - which must have been very disappointing for him - and there had still been no sign of him some two weeks later.

Jim Smith has also experienced some disappointment with his efforts to air Bhutan, despite frequent, encouraging contact with the authorities there. Having spent many months in patient negotiations he was able to operate briefly as A51JS in early 1990... but even while he was operating other groups were demanding licences from the Bhutan Government - which saw as the only answer a further clamp-down on all amateur radio operating for the time being. However, a Japanese group engaged on a communication survey for the Bhutan government appeared on the 10m band in October. When Jim Smith queried their activities with the Bhutan authorities he was assured that amateur operation was not permitted but the Japanese had been given authority to use 10m in connection with their survey! Needless to say, DXCC credit for contacts with these stations is most unlikely.

"Controversy? That's another name for DXing Bren", said one top DXer during a recent call to DXNS, and it seems that very few of the most wanted countries can be aired without controversy. The latest row concerns the small group of islands in the Pacific called The Kermadecs, which are located some 865 miles NNE of New Zealand. Contacts have always been difficult for UK operators due to that fiendishly difficult path over the north pole and there have been very few first class DXpeditions over the years. In the 1991 Most Wanted Countries Survey run by The DX Magazine, Kermadec was in 25th place - a jump of ten places since last year. BUT, the survey was taken before the recent operations from XZ, ZA, YA, 3B7 and several others so Kermadec effectively moves into 19th place!

When I was secretary of CDXC many moons ago I was involved in the "Kermadec Problem" several times. A number of CDXC members politely protested about the apparently harsh attitude of the New Zealand Government in refusing permission for an amateur operation. Our protest didn't exactly achieve much and the peculiar restriction applying to amateur activity from The Kermadecs is still a mystery to most DXers. The current

resident amateur - George, ZL8GBS - has been prohibited from operating by his employers - the NZ Conservation Department - supposedly because of questionable behaviour by other amateurs operating from there in the past. This seems grossly unfair; George did not go there specifically to operate radio and he cannot be held responsible for the past activities of others. I expressed a view in DXNS that the Conservation Dept was effectively punishing amateurs world-wide for the actions of a few irresponsible individuals. A check back through DX News Sheet for the last 20 years reveals that just about every amateur who has operated from Kermadec has been a New Zealander. Maybe the NZ Conservation Dept ought to take those people to task rather than punish one of its own employees? Here is a brief resume of the "Kermadec Problem" as recorded in the pages of DX News Sheet:

January, 1967 ZL1AI was active, "hopefully for about one year". His XYL handled the cards.

October 1977 Two ZL OM/XYL teams signed ZL1AA/K and ZL1YL/K for a couple of weeks from Bells Beach, located between the shark infested sea and the active volcano that shakes Raoul Island about 70 times a month! A number of G's worked them (alas not me!) during their stay.

July 1978 John Thompson, ZL2BJU/K was active for a couple of months, mainly on The Pacific DX Net (remember that?)

November 1982 Ron Murphy, ZL1AMM reported that the NZ Government was still refusing to issue landing permits to those wishing to mount DXpeditions.

May 1983 Rumours of a forthcoming operation by ZL1DS/K, but problems experienced by ZL1AMO in obtaining permission tended to scotch them.

August 1983 Things looking up. ZL3AFH expected to be on the islands with the scientific team from October, although he did not expect to be QRV until January. Jim Smith was negotiating to take 5 scientists and 4 amateurs...

November 1983 ZL3AFH appeared signing ZL8AFH - the new prefix for Kermadec - working back home on 80m! The NZ authorities wrote to Jim Smith denying him permission to visit The Kermadecs. Jim telephoned immediately to ascertain the reason and was told that "NZART had been consulted and had responded to the effect that since the next Kermadec DXpedition would generate a lot of publicity it would be preferable if the group could be composed of and led by New Zealanders." ZL1AMM reported that several such groups were "waiting to go".

December 1983 24 members of CDXC put their names to a letter to NZART asking the society to reconsider its position regarding Jim Smith's planned operation. (I seem to recall that the reply was less than constructive!).

NZART announced that 3 experienced ZL amateurs would accompany a scientific expedition to Kermadec in February, 1984 for a 10 day stay.

Jim Smith received word on 24 December that he would be allowed to operate after all, but the notice was too late for him to finalise plans.

January 1984 Jim Smith issued the following statement: "Over 7 months of work, letters and telephone calls have gone into trying to find a working solution to Amateur Radio and Kermadec. In dealing with the authorities it was apparent that they wished to find a common set of ground rules which would enable them to issue a permit with confidence. With the idea of a joint expedition having a scientific interest and Amateur Radio taking second place, approval was seen to be certain. However, I had not bargained for the intrusion of NZART or, more correctly, the few who are council members of the Association which claims to represent Amateur Radio in New Zealand. In a similar manner I was not prepared to sit back and accept the biased and self-interested interference with negotiations. I am pleased to say that on Christmas Eve I received a permit for a three weeks stay on Raoul. The permit is issued jointly and conditionally to Dr J Craig (Scientist & leader) and J B Smith (President HIDXA). May I record my thanks to the Department of Lands and Survey who have now ignored the input from NZART."

ZL8AFH was worked in Europe on 40m!

Later, word came that the DXpedition by VK9NS, ZL1AMO and others would probably take place in March.

February 1984 Warwick, ZL8AFH continued activity, mainly in list operations. Doubts being expressed about available funds for the March DXpedition. A week later it was announced that VK9NS, ZL1AMO, ZL1AAS and ZL1BQD would depart around 11 March for a 10-12 day operation. A week later came news that Jim Smith had withdrawn from the operation.

March 1984 Several CDXC members (including your scribe) worked ZL8AFH for their last one for Honor Roll. In order to get the cards to ARRL by 31 March various ploys were used, including telephone calls to Warwick's mother by smooth-talking G4DYO who threatened boxes of chocolates and bunches of flowers! The cards arrived on time!! Meanwhile, CDXC pledged support of nearly £100 to be remitted as soon as the big DXpedition was QRV..... ZL8BQD, ZL8AAS and ZL8AMO showed up on 17th working Europe. A few days after their arrival a storm broke and their boat sank! The team was rescued by a passing inter-island trading vessel, necessitating close-down a few days earlier than planned.

July 1985 Word came that ZL4OY would commence a tour of duty in September and would sign

ZL8OY.

September/October 1985 ZL8OY was worked by some US stations on 20m and was said to have joined ZL2AAG's 40m net, but there were no reports of him working Europe.

November 1985 Chris used the special call ZM8OY for a while and GW4BLE worked him on 14210 at 0738 on 18th for his 310 country! Subsequently other Europeans worked him on various bands, CW and SSB... Mike, G4IUF made it on 80m no less!

June 1986 Chris, ZL8OY went QRT and left the island...

September 1986 Word came that Peter Fisher, ex-ZL9AA would be active for one year from October signing ZL8HV.

October 1986 ZL8HV came on, announcing that he wanted to QSL direct via the irregular air-drops of mail to the island!!!

January 1987 G4AMT worked ZL8HV on 40m, otherwise not too many reports of activity.

July 1987 A few Gs made it via the 14220 net...

August 1987 G4ADD reported that ZL8HV had been heard calling CQ Europe with no takers!

September 1987 ZL8HV wrapped up at the end of the month.

September 1991 After a long absence of Kermadec from the bands we received word that George, ZL8GBS was due to arrive in mid-September for a stay of up to one year.

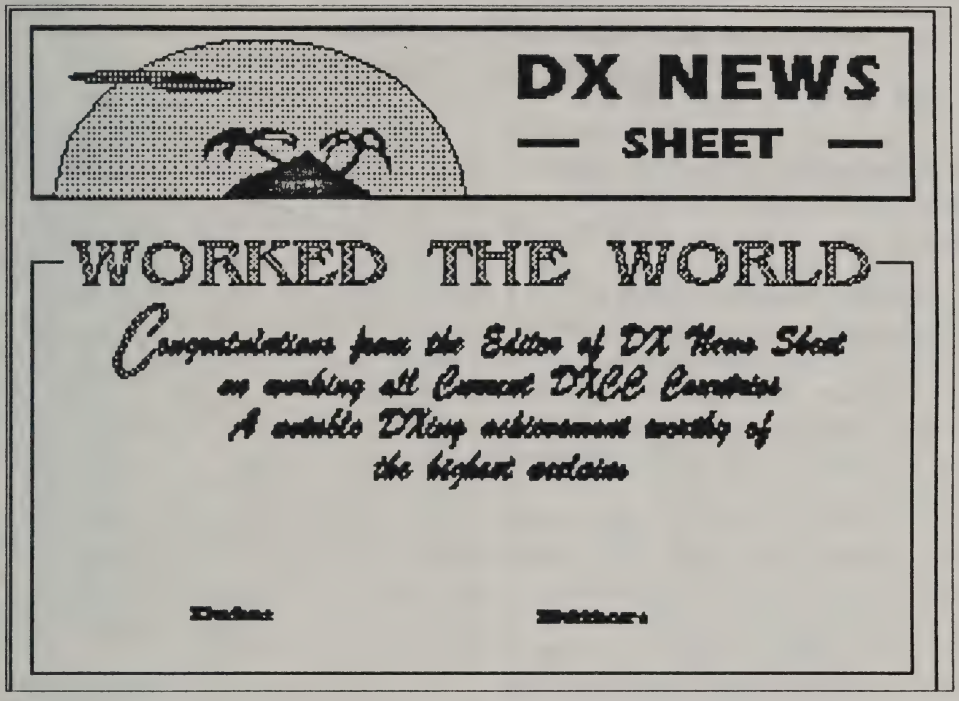
October 1991 The unbelievable news came that George's employees -the NZ Conservation Department - upon hearing that he had an amateur licence had prohibited him from using it!! Reason given was that amateur radio had caused several problems in the past on Raoul Island, including "illegal landings".

New Zealand is a a normal, civilised country and this attitude towards amateur radio leaves me completely stunned! Is it time for CDXC to act again??

Early in November a lot of DX hearts missed a beat (and a lot of power stations suffered overloads!) when "P5RR" appeared on 15m asking for QSLs to 3W3RR's Moscow PO Box. Despite many days of regular activity it turned out to be yet another pirate so DON'T waste time and money sending cards to Moscow because you haven't worked next "new one" yet!!

Since the last Newsletter the YA0RR cards have arrived in the mails in great profusion. I wonder if those who refused to donate to the DXNS XY0RR Fund "because I haven't had my YA0RR card" are feeling an itsy twinge of conscience? Why was Romeo the butt of so much mischief when other DXpeditions and DX operations much closer to our heart have taken just as long to cough up cards? Steve Lowe has been active for 6 months from PNG but has anyone had a P29DX card yet? Patience is the key-word when QSLing, frustrating as it may be!

As I doubt that his efforts will


DX NEWS
— SHEET —
WORKED THE WORLD
Congratulations from the Editor of DX News Sheet
on working all Current DXCC Countries
A notable DXing achievement worthy of
the highest acclaim

be acknowledged elsewhere, I wish to pay a special tribute to Steve Emlyn-Jones, GW4BKG, who earlier this year resigned his position as the RSGB HF Awards Manager. I know that a lot of DXers around the world appreciated Steve's fine efforts but the frustrations of working with the society finally ground him down and he decided that enough was enough. Thanks for your efforts Steve.

Lastly, with winter closing in, remember that any antenna which survives a winter is not big enough...!

Good DXing...

WORKED THE WORLD

The appearance on the airwaves of the first operations from Myanmar (XY0RR) and Albania (ZA1A) likely to be accepted by ARRL provided a few lucky DXers with their last Current DXCC Countries. Several others, who had previously finished their Mixed Mode DXCCs were able to wrap up CW and SSB as well.

To mark this auspicious occasion, DX News Sheet produced special, full- colour "Worked The World" certificates which were awarded to those United Kingdom DXers known to have "wrapped up" their basic DXCCs with either XY and/or ZA.

(cont'd on p.25)

CDXC CONTESTING
Paul Evans, G4BKI

This time around we'll address the question of the lack of mega-stations in the UK. We fairly frequently hear reference to this question these days, but to no great conclusion. We unfortunately have a situation where only a small handful of home stations have the real estate, permits for towers, understanding neighbours and money to put together good, solid contest winning stations. These

individuals, having established this position (and proven it) now become caught in a trap of their own success, happy to stay at home and win single-op events, but probably not able to bring themselves to 'risk-all' in the major events by either going multi-op at home or operating at another location. The end result is that either they are seen as individualists (nay, elistist by some) or their stations and/or expertise go to waste for the big efforts. These top operators could now frequently be unavailable to UK groups as they are also booked up by overseas stations too!

The only way to break the vicious circle is to try to get some discussion going between the 'big boys' and the also-rans. Maybe the UK could then get on the map with some impressive results. I am quite convinced that it can be done, because we do have the operating skills, but not the properly equipped stations by way of antennas.

Possibly the group that is closest to running a mega-station in the UK is one that I am now personally closely associated with these days, namely the Red Dragon Contest Group, GW8GT. I had struggled at home with the TS940S & vertical in contests, having to enter minority catagories of particular contests. However, there is absolutely no chance of keeping up with the owners of towers & beams in the main entry catagories of any contest with such a set-up. It just cannot be done. In some conditions the rates of these stations can be matched or beaten, but not for the

protracted length of the typical contest. Operator skill goes a long way - but can't make up for lack of 'muscle'.

I was invited to guest operate NFD with GW8GT in 1990 (usual shortage of CW ops!) and we achieved a significant improvement in placing. Next, I was re-invited for the CQ WW SSB & CW events. On SSB the going was tough and the EU competition a bit too much for a scratch team. To be honest, there were also no computers or other 'high-tech' in use at that time. Starting with the CW event, computers and a particularly lengthily planned operating schedule were brought into play. Also, the team was boosted by guest ops G3SQX, G4IFB and G4FAM (all of whom have since become

members).

It was particularly pleasing to hear the head-to-head fight we were having with the ops at G3LNS (G3LNS, G3HCT, G4BUO, G3MXJ). In the end, we hauled out a half million point lead over them, but we would never have rated our chances against such an imposing team - we started by treating the event as a training session! I would say that 10% of the difference was due to the GW call, but we were also at a huge dis-advantage on LF, 'LNS could hear signals on 80m that we couldn't get a sniff at! Maybe the majority of the difference was due to the detailed 'what-if' planning of the operating schedule, which allowed smooth operator & band changing all the way through the weekend and didn't tire out the ops.

What makes up the highest scoring Multi-Single CQ WW Station ever in the UK?

Three Towers (four this season)

160: Inverted V, centre at 66ft (plus kite this season)

80: Dipoles at 66ft (new bob-tail curtain this season)

40: 2el quad, boom at 80ft. Dipoles at 60ft.

20/15/10: KT-34XA at 80ft.

TS-930's, TS-440's and TS-850 this season.

The station has not quite recovered from the loss of an 80ft tower in the previous CQ WW SSB Contest, when force 11 winds bent over the tower at the base and 15 elements of 205BA, 155BA & 105BA all came crashing down. By next season it is hoped that all the 5 ele monos might be back up again.

I personally still do not see this as a mega-station (not until those monos are back up again), but is sufficient hardware to build to one in a short period of time.

I hope that gives some insight into the set-up of a station put together by operators who haven't got top class home stations to turn to, but combined are putting something together. Let's hope that others can try to do the same or join in.

Good Luck & good operating.

DON'T FORGET THE CDXC DX DAY!!!!

The first leg is on 22nd December....see last issue for times and Rules. The more participants the better!!

CQWW Phone...A participant's tale (Andrew Shaw G0HSD)

The annual CQ World Wide DX Contests have to be the highlight of the year for many amateurs (and a carbuncle on the nose of radio to others!!). For a new DXer who is yet to participate it can be an Aladdin's cave of rare countries from the Caribbean and the Far East waiting to be picked up on many bands.

I spent my first CQWW SSB in 1987, after only being licensed for three months, doing just that. I must have picked up at least twenty new countries in that weekend which gave a great boost to my DXCC score. By 1988 I had quite a lot more countries in the bag and spent a little time calling "CQ contest" and found with a fairly small set up (2 elements at 25ft) I could work the West Coast, VK, and the Caribbean very easily. This whetted my appetite.

At the 1989 HF Convention, Steve G4JVG, nobbled me and explained that as a lot of the "CDXC Big Guns" were off to Jersey for CQ, the club needed entrants for the Team Section. "Yes please!" I said and went home to plan. The whole event was an anti-climax as about 4 hours into the contest a F10 gale battered my tribander and broke the coax at the top of the pole. I ended up doing the rest to the contest on the 160m vertical!!

By October 1990 I was much wiser. We had moved to Bledlow and I had bought G3OZF's P60 tower, a quad for 20-15-10m and a decent amplifier. I had also gained a lot more experience by this time, having operated SSB and CW in several contests. I was ready.

I came home from work on the Friday night and added the finishing touches to the shack and settled down to a couple of hours sleep. I should mention that I was not supposed to be doing the contest from home, but the multi-single entry from G3OZF's fell through due to an unforeseen business meeting at the last minute. UNfortunately, the family thought "Great...peace and quiet this year....we'll invite some friends to stay." HELL!! This meant I would have to appear for meals, a party on the Saturday night and not shout down the mic at 3 in the morning. Mmmmm.

0000z arrived first in the log was P40V followed by VP5T and then I spent the following six hours working W's at 3 or 4 a minute on 20m, interspaced by trips to 40, 80 and 160 for multipliers. Conditions were fantastic!

Just as I thought I was doing well, disaster struck. I returned to 20m after about an hour on LF only to find that the SWR on the quad was through the roof. Why? I ran outside. I had lowered the tower in the night as a gale was howling, but

the quad had sustained severe damage. The 20m extensions on the spreaders had broken in the wind and the driven element had wrapped itself around the TV antenna! My contest was over.

I sat and sulked in the kitchen over a bowl of corn flakes. Then I went for a walk. Whilst up in the hills I was struck by an idea so obvious I ran back home and jumped in the car. I sped to the garden centre and bought eight five foot 1" stakes and a big reel of insulating tape. The next three hours were spent winding the tower down and strapping the stakes into place with the tape. The next job was to make up new 20m elements and tuning them...which seemed to take for ever!

At 1400z I was back on the air, and over the next two hours worked over four hundred stations on 15m, mainly Stateside. I then quit for a while to attend the party, creeping back into the shack for the odd hour to keep the rate up.

By 0000z Sunday morning I was spent. I decided to have three or four hours sleep and wake at 0400z in time for peak conditions to the States, zones 8 and 9, and South America on 40m. I overslept. At 0730z I woke in a mad panic. This was a contest I wouldn't forget in a hurry! A quick flip around the bands built up the multiplier score and gave me a good indication on what conditions were like and therefore how to tackle the rest of the contest.

I decided to hit 10 and 15 hard and spent most of the day working away, and by about 1800z I had worked the band dry (I have since been told that this is a very bad thing to do and indicates that one is about an hour late in changing bands!) so headed for 20m. Conditions were still fabulous and I spent the next six hours hammering away, with frequent excursions to the other bands for multipliers.

At 0001z Monday morning it was time for a Guinness! My throat closed up and my voice vanished. I had done reasonably well. 2709 QSOs (excluding dups), 109 zones and 297 countries in total, securing a total claimed score of 2,912,644 points. I think if I had spent the full 48hrs at the rig (instead of about 30) and the antenna had behaved I would have made about 3500-3700 QSOs. This score secured 1st place in England (probably the UK) in the Single Op. Assisted Section (with PacketCluster). Many thanks to G0CGL and the others who provided a great spotting service.

THIS YEAR

Armed with a serious dose of enthusiasm I got to work on planning the station well in advance. This year I had no quad so I dug out the three element tribander. What about LF? Mmmm. I now knew the neighbours well enough for bits of wire to stray onto their land and use a tree or two.

I decided to plump for a full

size wire beam for 40m beaming at the Caribbean. This I hoped would cover North America and South America as well. I had thought about also rigging it up so the reflector could be detached, shortened and hung closer to the driven element to act as a director for Europe and the Far East. The construction consisted of a 21ft scaffold pole clamped across the head unit of the tower, and a halyard at either end. I used my 40/80 trapped dipole as the driven element (using it as a straight dipole on 80m) in inverted V configuration. The reflector was just a single length of wire also in a V at the same angle. This straddled the house, the string on the reflector coming down square in the middle of the drive!

For 160m I used my 1/4 wave vertical (those of you at the bar-beque saw it as a heap of tangled wire called Oscar). I enlisted the help of a friend with a crossbow who shot a line over nextdoor's 100ft tree, and ran the antenna to that.

These and the 40/80m vertical at the bottom of the garden made up G0HSD. And I hoped they would work.

This year, after the lessons they learnt last year, the family volunteered to go away for the weekend. GREAT!!!! Chris and John, two of our neighbours, offered to keep my supplied with food and drink. I was made.

I set myself a target of 4000 QSOs (that's 1.3 per minute for the full 48 hrs!) and that I would enter Singe Op and not Assisted. And with the antennas rigged up, station working and operator mentally prepared, all was set.

At 2315z on Friday night I woke and turned the rig on. Mmmm. Condx not so great....perhaps everyone is having a quick beer to get their throats lubricated. I relaxed. Tuned the bands and waited.

0000z. First in the log was YW4N followed by KP2A, J82A, PJ7A. With those in the bag I quickly mopped up a couple more zones and then found a clear frequency to call CQ. Nothing. Conditions were worse than I thought, in fact they were dreadful. I skipped down to LF and quickly scoured 160, 80 and 40 for multipliers. This was more like it. I soon had a healthy looking checklist and decided to work 80m to push up the score (40 was too noisy). I spent about two and a half hours on 80 between 0100 and 0530 and worked over 200 stations. (This time last year was spent on 20!!). I made brief excursions to 40m and found that the wire beam worked very well into the States and Caribbean although it was tough making myself heard in Europe.

The sun rose and I looked on HF again. A few Russians on 20m but no more. I went back to LF. 0630 and I tried 20 again and worked mainly EU. I then turned the beam to see if there was a long path opening to ZL or JA.....there was but a very slight one. Worked ZM2K to clobber zone 32 and

managed to work a couple of JAs.

I was beginning to get very frustrated. By the time I had breakfast I had worked fewer than four hundred stations. A few short runs on 15 lifted my flagging spirits, but I was often calling CQ for what seemed ages at a time with no takers.

On Saturday evening I was going to be brought a meal from next door, but I opted to go round and join them for a few hours because by now I was totally brassed off. This was a dreadful mistake. I later discovered that 10m had opened up and I could have made a killing!...such is life. When I returned at about 2300z I hammered 40, 80 and 20m until about 0200z when I decided to get some sleep. This is always a lethal move...I never respond to an alarm clock, so I missed the bell at 0400 and didn't wake until 0700z.

I continued and the bands almost livened up during the Sunday afternoon and I was on the rig without a break from 1200-0000z working everything in sight.

Towards the end of the contest things tailed off. 15 and 20m were practically dead by 2100z so I headed for 40 again. I'm glad I did. Condx were fabulous. I worked many Caribbeans and South Americans, JA and heard a BY under a heap of EU stations. I realised that it had been a big mistake not to make the 40m beam reversible...especially when I had a sked with P29DX who was just audible but under a pile of Europeans. Anyone with a real 40m beam or a quad would have had great fun.

I finished the contest on 80m. Now I really wound up the pace, putting out a CQ every four or five seconds. Nine minutes from the end a G0 called me: "G0xxx you're 5914"....a pause. "G0HSD thanks old man you are also 5914..." . "QSL QRZ G0HSD Contest".

he was still rabbiting.."name's Der....". "YU4AZF you're 5914"..."Got a G5RV up a Tree" a droning voice said, still on his second over. "QRZ G0HSD.....UA3POL 5914". "Can I just have you name for the log". It is not word of a lie to say I restrained myself admirably from uttering an obscenity and said "LATER!!! QRZ G0HSD".

I will not say the contest was a total failure, but I only made about 1400 QSOs (before duping). I worked more countries on 80m than I did on 10m. I apportion the blame in the following order.

In first place conditions. Second, operator error. I made a few errors in band changes and the station could have been better prepared. Nevertheless I thoroughly enjoyed myself and I am already planning what to do next year. I will probably be active form outside the UK but plans have yet to be made.

See you in the pile ups!

CDXC
CHILTERN DX CLUB

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

From Cliff Underhill, G0MMI

Since I received my HF call I have had an interest in DXCC and especially the DX side of working that rare country or island. The only problem was what HF equipment would be needed and most importantly what antenna no use. I already had a FT-707 line up which I used for SWL, so for now that would do. But the antenna would be a bit difficult. As space is limited I decided to make my own antenna from wire. I ended up with a nest of inverted Vs for 40-20-17-15-10m at a height of 35 feet. Would this do for working DX? The answer was yes but it takes time especially if you are only putting 100 Watts into the antenna.

Within 10 months I had over 100 countries which included Spratly on 3 bands and some rarer African prefixes. After that I soon has WAC, WITU, IARU regions and of course, DXCC. Since then I have worked XY0RR which I though I would never get. I managed to hook him after about 7 hours at the rig. I wonder what was worse, the QRM from the rig or the wife HI. I just hope it wasn't a pirate!!

New prefixes since are P29DX our own DX member Steve, XW and 3B7. I am now trying to work ZA1A but this time with the help of a Swan 1500z. It's already taken me five hours on phone and CW but I still hope to hear him call "G0MMI ur 59", and so would the XYL!!

It has been frustrating at times but is it not what DXing is about? The antenna has done well but one day I will make life a little easier by putting up a beam or a quad but for now the neat of inverted Vs will do nicely.

Best 73's de Cliff, G0MMI

From Peter Chadwick, G3RZP

MOAN! Why don't QSL managers seal envelopes? I've had several cards in unsealed envelopes. But for KP2A/KP5, sent 3 cards for 3 QSOs, $1, an envelope addressed with 50c postage. Got an empty envelope because they didn't seal it. Put another 50c on, sent it with a polite note - NO REPLY. Maybe another $1 might get a reply. This is just stupidity and incompetence - nearly as bad as working lists!

Best 73, Peter, G3RZP

(Ed. This is done because if the envelope is unsealed, it can be sent at 'printed paper rate' - we can also do the same here, although it is a risky way to send things!!)

From Don McLean, G3NOF

Congratulations to all those who have now worked all countries on the current DXCC list. My only wanted country is FO Clipperton.

In recent issues Martin G3ZAY and Bren G4DYO have commented

on the lack of British HF DXers. Many Europeans have said the same to me. In my experience many are put off by EMC problems and difficulties in putting up even simple antennas due to neighbours. For EMC I keep a few filters and with other club members of the Yeovil ARC, so far we have demonstrated that it is nearly always the user's equipment not the amateur's. The VCRs seem to be the chief culprits. I keep weekly skeds with VK, W, 5H, XX(and I encourage local stations to join in. Several with simple wire antennas, finding I can make a good QSO using a rotary beam, while they can only with difficulty, made an effort to improve theirs. Some have made fixed wire beams and others put up rotary beams. They are now beginning to take a serious interest in DX. Perhaps we should try harder to help newcomers to work DX.

Re the article on page 27, September 1991 on IRCs I can add some further information. The fax is in fact a copy of article 34 of the Washington Convention of the Universal Postal Union. I had been in correspondence with Royal Mail International at Chesterfield regarding IRCs and they sent me this copy. There are two points not stated on so I phoned and put the following Q. What is the exchange rate for old "surface" IRCs? A. Stamps for airmail postage. Q. what happens when you send an IRC to a country with several airmail rates? A. Exchanged for airmail stamps to the country of origin of the IRC.

Vy 73 es DX, Don G3NOF

From John, G4DQW

During a recent trip to the Middle East I spent some time in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. I was fortunate to be able to make contact with Saeed (A61AD) who, with true Arab hospitality, invited me to his home and later on, to visit again at the weekend and operate as A61AD. Saeed hasn't been as active recently as last year due to other committments so was pleased to see the station used - and perhaps take a tiny bit of the pressure off in the pile-ups ! Mind you, with 35,000 Qso's made since being licensed in 1989, Saeed has certainly taken to ham radio and done a lot to move A6 way down the "most needed" lists. Despite this, and judging by the number of questions asked on air for CW/RTTY/bands slots etc. there is still quite a demand for A6 among The Deserving !

The station is superb with an IC-781 driving an IC-4KL with a KT34XA beam on the roof. The operation was only for around 5 hours during which some 400+ SSB QSO's were made and great fun was had !

FIRST OPERATION BY BRITISH AMATEURS FROM UZBEKISTAN, USSR

4TH TO 10TH MAY 1991

P.A. WHITCHURCH G3SWH AND J.C.B.STEELE G3LZK

We could now start planning and publicising the trip in earnest, although there wasn't much time as we had flight bookings made for a departure from Heathrow on Friday 3rd May. Publishing lead times prevented us from any advance notifications in RadCom, but the DX News Sheet, the FOC and CDXC Newsletters as well as the PacketCluster system seemed to get the word around the DX fraternity fairly well. I even had a questionnaire from Chod Harris of The DX Bulletin.

Arrangements for flights were equally complicated. Our planned departure date was set at 3rd May, as this fitted in with our professional commitments and our research showed that the climate in Tashkent was probably the most suitable for us, being about 20/25 degrees centigrade daily maximum. Until we had obtained entry visas for the USSR, we could only lay the groundwork and make provisional bookings of aircraft seats.

The local travel agent thoroughly investigated the most economic means of getting us there and found that a British Airways flight leaving Heathrow at 09.25 BST on 3rd May and arriving at Sheremetyevo Airport in Moscow at 15.10 local time (GMT -2) would cost £295 return, with a connecting flight to Tashkent on Aeroflot. When we tried to make a provisional booking, Aeroflot decided that they would not issue a ticket for the Moscow/Tashkent flight unless we used them for the whole journey, i.e. London/Moscow/Tashkent and return. Their charge for the London/Moscow leg of the journey was substantially higher than the British Airways, and we believe that our travel agent exerted considerable pressure on the manager of Aeroflot in London, who finally relented and then quoted us a price of £95 each for the Moscow/Tashkent return flight, a similar distance to the London/Moscow return flight i.e. about 2,500 miles each way. This figure actually became £107 on confirmation of the booking.

There was one last hurdle. Once we had arrived at Sheremetyevo Airport in Moscow, we obviously had to get a connecting flight to Tashkent. Initially, that did not appear to be a problem, as there was a flight scheduled to leave Sheremetyevo about 3 hours after our scheduled arrival. What they failed to tell us in the first instance was that the plane only stopped at Tashkent en route to Delhi to refuel and pick up passengers, not to drop them off. There

was however an alternative, internal flight which left at 00.45 local time (GMT - 2) on 4th May, arriving in Tashkent at 06.40 local time (GMT -4).

The problem was, that entailed changing airports to the domestic airport at Domodedova, the small matter of about 100km by road and with no apparent public transport links between the two, other than a taxi which was quoted in Bristol as costing about £50 and taking 2.5 to 3 hours for the journey. At least, not identifiable by two Brits who spoke literally four words of Russian between them. Fortunately the amateur radio mafia came to our rescue. Al Slater, G3FXB has a long standing friendship with Valery UA3DEA, who was persuaded without much difficulty to meet us as Sheremetyevo and drive us to Domodedova and to see us on the right plane to Tashkent.

When we eventually arrived in Moscow and had cleared customs and entered the arrivals hall of the airport, we were met by an impressive reception committee. In addition to Valery and his non amateur partner-in-crime, Vladimir, we were delighted to be met by Jacob, UA3BR who was involved in the Club of Friendship (Between Radio Amateurs of the USSR and UK) and in the Russian Convoy Club, which is to have a commemorative meeting in Murmansk on 31st August 1991, which Ken, G3IFN and Eric, G3DKH were hoping to attend. Jacob's main purpose of meeting us was to make arrangements to meet us on the return journey so that we could take back with us some messages and mementoes of the Russian convoys for Ken and Eric.

Actually, we had about 8 hours in Moscow between flights, which gave Valery the chance to drive us into central Moscow in his old Mercedes car and to see Red Square and a couple of the other famous tourist spots. We also wanted a meal, but Valery said not to worry as he had a picnic arranged. After seeing the sights, we drove out of the city towards Domodedova Airport. The road system was quite good, with wide, dual carriageways and not much traffic. The road surface was full of pot-holes and generally lacking in maintenance, which slowed progress considerably.

Close to the airport, we drove off the main dual carriageway into the woods. It was getting dark by this time, and both Barry and I were a bit apprehensive about where we were going for the 'picnic'. We finally stopped in a suitably deserted spot in some beautiful silver birch woodland. What actually happened was that we collected lots of twigs and built a fire, roasted potatoes in its embers, ate garlic sausage on coarse bread and drank lots and lots of vodka - in the Russian manner - from enamelled cups, in very large measures, neat and straight down. Needless to say, I got extremely drunk and don't remember much about getting to the airport and Valery's incredible antics at

getting us to the head of the various queues. Barry can remember perfectly well. (He obviously didn't have as much vodka as me!)

I do remember much laughter, the exchange of many presents and taking a whole lot of photographs, all of which came out (surprisingly, as my flash photography is not usually very successful). A truly memorable occasion. Valery also promised faithfully to meet us at Domodedova on the return journey and drive us to Sheremetyevo, via his home town of Zaghorsk.

We thus arrived in Tashkent to a beautiful warm sunny morning at about 6.00 am Tashkent time, which is two hours advanced on Moscow time. I'm pleased to say that I was somewhat recovered by this time, but feeling very tired and terribly thirsty. Nazim was waiting for us at the exit gate, and was easily identified by a large cardboard notice with 'I am Nazim' written on it in large English letters. He was accompanied by a 14 year old schoolgirl who bounced up to us and said 'Hello. My name is Lena and I am to be your interpreter.'

Nazim had prepared himself very well, as he didn't trust his own English at that stage. Lena was studying English at school, and was obviously a good scholar as she was able to translate for us very well for the first couple of days, after which Nazim's self confidence improved to the point that he felt able to converse with us directly.

Also with him was an apparently taciturn man called Bahadyr, who helped us load four adults, Lena and all our luggage into his Lada Riva 1300 cc car. Incidentally, none of the luggage could be fitted into the boot and had to be carried on our laps! Once loaded, he drove us the seven or so kilometres to Nazim's house. We saw an awful lot of Bahadyr during our stay, as he drove us everywhere. He turned out to be most cheerful, but didn't speak a word of English, and, with Nazim, was obviously as apprehensive about meeting us as we were about meeting them.

As we got to know Bahadyr better, it became apparent that, although he was not licensed himself, he held some high, official position in the Uzbek Central Radio Club, and had been instrumental in getting our callsigns issued. He is very keen on the idea of promoting better East/West relations through amateur radio and wants to set up some sort of organised exchange visit arrangement with UK amateurs and their wives to visit Uzbekistan in groups of 10/15 or so and stay at the Central Radio Club building (which we never saw) in Tashkent. The object of such visits would be to both operate amateur radio and see the country as tourists. Similarly, he would like to organise small groups of amateurs from Uzbekistan to visit UK. We are consulting with the RSGB as to whether this is a practicable suggestion.

On arrival at Nazim's house,

the excesses of the previous 24 hours finally caught up with Barry and we both needed some sleep, so, after some delicious coffee we unpacked morse keys, headphones etc, briefly looked at the radio gear and went to bed.

After a few hours rest and some lunch, we inspected the radio equipment in more detail. Whilst we had slept, Nazim had adapted the 0.25" jack plugs on our headphones and keys to their Russian equivalents and we were able to fire things up.

The receiver was an ex military, general coverage type using valves throughout and covering 1.5 to 25 MHz in 500 KHz bands, quite sensitive and with a back-lit film dial calibrated in KHz and giving good bandspread. Calibration accuracy was not accurate, but the error was a constant 3 or 4 KHz high. Selectivity was continuously variable down to about 500 Hz and a variable BFO. I would think it was roughly equivalent to an early Racal RA17, i.e. a typical surplus receiver which didn't compare favourably with either Barry's TS940S or my FT101ZD.

The transmitter was home made by Nazim to the well known UW3DI design, again using valves throughout and running about 100 watts output. It was capable of SSB as well as CW, although we didn't use it.

Antennas were home made monoband beams for 10, 15 and 20 metres, stacked at 2 metre intervals on a home made lattice tower of about 10/12 metre height. The rotator was a bit crude and the indicator mechanism a very coarse selsyn system, which gave beam heading steps of +/- 15 degrees or so. Inverted vee dipoles were available for 40 and 80 metres, but we didn't use either of them.

We were thus back into the unfamiliar practice of having to 'net' the VFO of the transmitter onto the required receiver frequency before we could operate. As there was no independent sidetone on the receiver other than hearing the transmitted signal through the muted receiver, working 'split' was difficult. Barry did try it once or twice, but I couldn't get on with it, and had no real problems with the pile-ups anyway. Change-over from receive to transmit was by means of a large, industrial type foot switch, which again took some getting used to when you're normally used to either full or semi QSK at home. The whole set up reminded me of my old home brew set up which I built when I was first licensed in 1964, but it worked very successfully.

The public electricity supply voltage in Tashkent is a nominal 220 volts, 60 Hz. Nazim had a permanently connected voltage meter and variac type transformer, as the true voltage varied widely, sometimes dropping as low as 190 volts, particularly in the early evenings and rising at others to over 250 volts. The variac compensated for these fluctuations, but its voltage output had to be constantly watched or the valves in the rig would have been

overstressed.

Nazim is chief operator for UI9AWD at a hostel for young workers in the textile factories in Tashkent, of which there are about six, employing between 50 and 60 thousand people; for UI9AWI at a secondary school literally next door to the hostel and close to his home; and for UI9BWR at a camp near Charwak for the Soviet Pioneer group (roughly equivalent to the scouts and guides rolled into one) formed by the children of the workers in the textile factories in Tashkent. Charwak is a small town, about 100km north of Tashkent city, in Tashkent Oblast. We didn't actually visit UI9AWI but, with the exception of antennas, the rigs at UI9AWD and UI9BWR were almost identical to that at UI8AA, and the transmitters, towers and antennas had all been constructed by Nazim.

Barry had decided to take his Bencher paddle, but to leave his Auto Starmaster electronic keyer behind, as he reasoned that the Russians used electronic keyers which he could plug in to and that he might be arrested by the customs for attempting to export a box of electronics to the USSR, to say nothing of being accused of taking a 'bomb' on board the aircraft. He was probably wise, as at both Heathrow going out and at Sheremetyevo going in, the magnetic loop security device detected the large lump of metal in his luggage. Explanations were certainly easier at Heathrow than at Sheremetyevo, but we were declared harmless and allowed to proceed, although Barry did have his supply of party poppers - for Nazim's children you understand - confiscated by the Security guard at Heathrow.

Nazim had a home made, valve electronic keyer which was connected to a home made paddle, consisting of a piece of spring steel, like a hacksaw blade, mounted vertically so as to pivot between two adjustable contacts. Again, it reminded me very much of the sort of thing which I used to make when I was a teenage short wave listener and learning the code in about 1960. The problems arose when Barry tried to connect his Bencher in parallel with Nazim's home made unit. Firstly, there were about 120 volts DC on the key contacts, which caused severe arcing on Barry's paddle. Secondly, the Russians have not apparently yet heard about iambic keyers with self completing dot memories, which western amateurs take for granted these days. Consequently, Barry was in a very awkward situation, having travelled 4000 miles and having to learn effectively overnight to use Nazim's paddle and keyer, which utilised a keying method which was completely different from that which he was used to, before he could go on the air.

I had taken my trusty old Vibroplex bug key, which was well buried in my luggage and caused no problems at any of the customs or security checks. It connected straight

across Nazim's keyer output and behaved itself perfectly all the time we were there.

(cont'd from p.11)

The following DXers received certificates:

G3GIQ, G3HTA, G3LQP, G3MCS, G3NLY, G3NSY, G3RCA, G3RUX, G3SJH, G3TJW, G3UML, G3VIE, G3YJI, G3ZAY, G4DYO, GM3BQA, GW3CDP

The certificate, which is illustrated below in black and white was designed using CorelDraw and the master copy was printed by Paul, G4CCZ on a Paintjet printer - for which grateful thanks. Subsequent copies were copied from the master using a Canon colour photocopier.

The Worked The World certificate is available only to those who completed DXCC with effect from the recent XY0RR operation. Anyone not listed above who believes that they qualify may contact DXNS Office for a certificate. Hopefully a further batch will be issued following the South Sandwich DXpedition next March.

CDXC SPORTSHIRTS

See last issue. Martin G3ZAY has only had a couple of orders for the CDXC Sportshirt this time. If you are interested please forward your order to him as soon as possible.

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

(To those members who paid subs by Standing Order)

We are still having problems with subscription payments made via STANDING ORDERS. The club's bankers Girobank seem unable (or unwilling) to help us trace a number of payments made to the bank account without any detail as to who made the payments or the bank that paid. They admit the information is in their computer, but want to charge £4 per enquiry (nearly half the sub!). The Committee are not willing to pay this unfair charge and it may be that the club will have to consider changing our banking arrangements.

From the records, it appears that 39 members have advised that they paid their subs by standing order. Of this 39, the club has been able to trace payments from the following 16 members: G0CCH, G0KUB, G0MGM, G0MMI, G3AEZ, G3GAF, G3HCT, G3PMR, G3SJX, G3VOF, G3ZBA, G4CCZ, G4LJF, G4NXG, GM3YOR and GM4UZY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED BY THESE MEMBERS.

The following 17 members have advised the club that they have instructed their banks to pay by SO, but either the paying bank has not actioned the payment, or it has been credited incorrectly (viz to the wrong bank, wrong account, or the club's bank has not provided details): G0GRK, G0HGW, G3LZQ,

G3NKQ, G3NKS, G3NOB, G3PSM, G3RUR, G3UML, G3WGN, G3WGV, G3ZAY, G4BUE, G4DII, G4PFF, G4SVB and G4UZN.

IF YOUR CALL APPEARS ON THIS LIST,

please help the club by checking your bank statements and let me have the following details:

1- Date of payment (as shown on the statement)

2- Name and address of your bank together with SORT CODE.

PLEASE SEND THIS INFORMATION TO ME: RON GLAISHER, G6LX, 279 ADDISCOMBE ROAD, CROYDON, SURREY, CR0 7HY. THANKS.

This leaves 5 members unaccounted for.

IF YOUR CALL DOES NOT APPEAR ON EITHER LIST AND YOU HAVE PAID BY STANDING ORDER, PLEASE CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY.

73 de Ron

CQWW WORLD HIGH - WITHOUT REALLY TRYING!

By Alan Jubb, G3PMR

A CQWW single op, single band winner (world high) with 360 points! You don't believe it? Well, here's how it happened.

Licensed in 1961, whilst a student at the University College of North Wales, Bangor, much of my early operating was as GW3PMR.

As now, my operating was primarily CW. The rig was a Panda Cub Tx, with a converted BC348 Rx, and a 300 foot end fed long wire antenna, which was slung from the attic of my student flat to a convenient tree, part way up a small hill, known as Bangor Mountain. My key was a Vibroplex, which is still in use today.

I soon found that I enjoyed contest operating, and started entering contests, mainly CQWW, CQ160, and various RSGB contests. Being a GW, there were not too many other entrants from my country, but somehow, I just couldn't make top GW entrant, no matter how hard I tried. Usually, I came in second or sometimes third, but never the top spot.

I became quite frustrated by this, and after a couple more attempts, I decided, in 1965, too adopt a different strategy.

After perusing the rules of CQWW, I decided that I stood a fair chance of making top GW if I concentrated on Top Band Phone (AM in those days!).

So, my trusty Panda Cub was tuned up, my little used Geloso crystal mike was dusted off, a few early nights were had, and into the contest.

First QSO was at 0920z (I can't remember what happened to the first 9+ hours - I was probably in

bed, following an evening at the local hostelry!). The pace in the next hour was really hot - 4 QSOs, all with Gs!!. After an hour's break at 10.00 (keen wasn't I?), the next session brought 11 more QSOs, and the country score had rocketed to 2 - really going now!

By the way, I don't think I worked another contest station in the whole event - I was repeatedly told that "CQWW doesn't cover Top Band OM."

The final session of the day (until 0054 on the Sunday) brought more countries, and by the end of the day, 37 QSOs had been had. What a QSO rate!

Restarting at 1000z the next day, the QSO rate peaked at 7 per hour - by this time, I was taking many minutes rag chewing per QSO, as there was no sign of any GW competition, or any other, for that matter! 2 GDs worked together gave me yet another country, around noon. A short 3 hour break for lunch was followed by an unbroken spell of eight hours operating (into the contest properly now!) right up to the end of the contest.

Final analysis showed my hard earned achievement as:

360 points, 70 QSOs, 1 zone, and 5 countries. Countries worked were G, GD, GI, GM, and GW - real DX!

I went to bed that night content in the knowledge that I'd almost certainly won the single band single op category in GW, and probably in the UK, too.

Of course, there was no PacketCluster in those days, with GW4BLE collating claimed scores, and I didn't subscribe to an DX news sheets at the time, so it was months before I heard the results of the contest.

When the June 1966 CQ eventually popped through the letter box, I eagerly opened it up to confirm my leading GW position. Imagine my astonishment when I found that not only had made top GW, but I'd made top UK, top EU, and top world score!!! I was the only entrant who submitted a 160m entry! There were reports of YV9AA and K2GL being active on 160m, but they, apparently, didn't bother to submit an entry.

So there we are, folks - how to get a world high the easy way, running 10 watts of AM to a 300 foot wire. I think times have changed somewhat since 1965, so I guess it was a never to be repeated result! Anyway, the certificate id hung proudly on my shack wall, with the inscription "WORLD HIGH", as a constant reminder of the success.

(I finally made top GW in a CW contest in the 1966 CQ160 contest, amassing a huge (!) score of 11,500 points)

WANTED LISTS

Many thanks to the dozen of you who have contributed so far. Unfortunately I need many more wanted lists in order to produce an accurate survey. PLEASE SEND ME YOUR LIST HOWEVER BIG OR SMALL.
Thanks. Andrew G0HSD

SCOTTISH ACTIVITY WEEKEND

In an effort to encourage activity be Scottish Stations and a worldwide interest in contact with Scotland, the introduction of an Annual Scottish Activity Weekend is being arranged by the Scottish Tourist Board (Radio Amateur) Expedition Group for the third weekend in April each year. Activity on all bands is suggested by individual class A, B and Novice stations using their own callsign GM or 2M and club stations using their GS prefix (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,0 as appropriate).

As an added interest for the first event, to be held on 18th/ 19th April 1992, it is hoped to have a station using a GB prefix operating from each Scottish Region (12 in total), active over the weekend period.

Borders Region	GB0BDS	Lothian Region	GB0LTH
Central Region	GB0CTR	Orkney Islands	GB0OKE
Dumfries & Galloway	GB0DGL	Shetland Islands	GB0SLD
Fife Region	GB0FFE	Strathclyde Region	GB0SCD
Grampian Region	GB0GRN	Tayside Region	GB0TYS
Highland Region	GB0HLD	Western Isles	GB0WIL

An award and trophies are proposed for stations/SWLs with the highest number of contacts made/logged with different Scottish stations during the event.

Further details will appear in Amateur Radio Publications nearer the date.

SOUTH SANDWICH 1992

The US sponsored DXpedition to South Sandwich is scheduled for March, 1992.

The team of American operators is scheduled to passd through the UK around 9-10 March en route for Port Stanley where they will board the ship to take them to Thule Island. The flight from the UK will be by RAF aircraft from Brize Norton. The team will arrive at either Heathrow or Gatwick and will require transportation to Brize Norton, which is virtually inaccessible by public transport. I already had in mind arranging some sort of social gathering to enable us to meet the guys and send them properly on their way; we now have a chance to really get involved with this DXpedition by providing transport for the team during the UK stopover. Precise details will have to be worked out later, but at the very least we should be able to rustle up a convoy of cars!

I have offered to act as UK link for the organisers and I have told them that I am sure CDXC can be relied upon to help out. I will publish more information later in DX News Sheet and on the PacketCluster and, hopefully, more definite news will be available for the next issue of the Newsletter.

Pencil those dates - 9th/10th March - in your diaries now!

Bren G4DYO

1992 HAM CALENDAR

As soon as the last Newsletter was published I realised I had miscalculated the expense of the 1992 Ham Calendar.

THE PRICE SHOULD HAVE BEEN £10.00

KB1T has been very good to CDXC in the past and it would be nice to support the calendar with a large order.

Please make cheques payable to Andrew Shaw, and sent to G0HSD at the address shown in the front of the newsletter by 14 December. KB1T says the calendars are ready and waiting so delivery will be faster than last year.